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REPORT

OF

COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS.

IN THE CASE OF MARY CLARK.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
December 29, 1863. }

MR. SPEAKER:

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Mary Clark of Washington county, Virginia, have instructed me to report:

That the claim of the petitioner is that she may be paid the value of a certain slave belonging to her, which, under an act of the Legislature of Virginia, was impressed by the Governor of that State, to labor on the fortifications around the city of Richmond, and while engaged in this service contracted, it is alleged, a disease of which he died. The committee have reason to believe that there is a large number of claims of this description, and that any attempt to adjust them, on the part of Congress, would necessarily lead to great embarrassment and confusion, and that the remedy of those aggrieved, is to be sought from State authorities, leaving the matter to be adjusted between the State and Confederate governments.

The committee, therefore, ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the petition in this case, and that it do lie on the table.

To the honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States :

The petition of Mary Clark of Washington county, Virginia, would respectfully represent :

That in the month of February, 1863, a slave belonging to your petitioner, named Jacob, was impressed under the act of the Legislature of Virginia, to labor on the fortifications then being erected for the defence of the city of Richmond. He was employed in this duty for about fifty-one days ; when his term of service being over, he was started back, along with other slaves from this county, by railway, on his return home. He was attacked on the cars by a mortal disease contracted in the service, the consequence of exposure, and died within a few days after arriving at the residence of your petitioner. All that medical skill and the utmost care of your petitioner could effect, was done to save him, but in vain.

Your petitioner is satisfied, and so expressly alleges, that the death of her said slave was occasioned by exposure while in the public service. When returned to her he was suffering under the attack of a mortal disease, which no care or effort of her's or of her family physician could relieve.

Under the circumstances above stated, your petitioner is advised and believes that she is entitled to compensation for the loss of her slave. The evidence which accompanies this petition, will show what his value was, in the then condition of the currency.

Your petitioner prays, from the justice of Congress, compensation for her property lost to her in the service and defence of the Confederacy.

MARY CLARK.

VIRGINIA—Washington County :

This day, William C. Edmondson, personally appeared before me, Noble J. McGinnis, a justice of the peace, and made oath, that on the evening of Sunday, the 12th day of April, 1863, Jacob, a slave, belonging to Miss Polly Clark, reached the house of his affiant about 10 o'clock. The house of his affiant is about two miles from the platform at Emory and Henry College. The said slave, Jacob, had got off the train of the Virginia and Tennessee railroad at Emory and Henry that evening, in a condition of great pain and suffering. He came to this affiant's house on foot, supported by three other negro men, and was evidently very severely sick. He was anxious to get home, to the residence of his mistress, a near neighbor of this affiant, but was in such condition that this affiant, judging him utterly unfit and unable to proceed on foot, even with the assistance of his colored friends, sent him home on horseback, supported and aided by two negro men. The said slave, Jacob, when he got to this affiant's house, was

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on his return, with other slaves from this county, from working on the fortifications near Richmond, under a call made upon this county by Governor Letcher.

The said slave Jacob, was a remarkably fine, athletic man, about 24 years old, of excellent character, and of great value. This applicant would consider him worth fully three thousand dollars.

Given under my hand, this 20th day of April, 1863.

NOBLE J. MCGINNIS, J. P.

VIRGINIA—Washington County :

This day, Dr. William F. Barr, of Abingdon, Virginia, personally appeared before me, John S. Cauldwell, a justice of the peace, in and for the State and County, aforesaid, and made oath as follows : That he was, on Monday morning about 4 o'clock, A. M., April 13th, 1863, called to see a slave belonging to Miss Mary Clark, of the aforesaid county, by the name of Jacob, aged about 24 years, and found him attacked *very violently*, with pneumonia. The boy Jacob, had returned but a few hours before, from Richmond, where he had been engaged in working upon the fortifications or public works in defence of Richmond, having been sent there, in conformity to the requisition made upon Washington county, by Miss Mary Clark ; that in his opinion and judgment the disease had been contracted by exposure before Jacob arrived at home, as he (Dr. B.) saw him in a few hours after he reached his home ; and that he (Dr. B.) regarded the case dangerous, if not incurable, so soon as he saw him. The boy Jacob was constantly and very attentively attended to, by the nurses, who were his sisters, as well as by Miss Clark ; and that he (Dr. B.) visited regularly as the attending physician, but notwithstanding every effort was made to cure him, he the said slave, Jacob, died on Saturday morning, April 18th, 1863.

Given under my hand, this 20th day of April, 1863.

JOHN S. CAULDWELL, J. P.

VIRGINIA—Washington County, to wit :

This day, John S. Bradley, made oath before me, a justice in and for said county ; that he went to Richmond in February, 1863, to superintend and take care of a portion of the slaves, sent from this county to work on the fortification of the city of Richmond. Amongst the slaves sent, was Jacob, the property of Mary Clark. He was not one of the number under my immediate charge, but I saw him frequently while there. During the time the slaves were at work, it

rained a great deal. The ditches and works would partially fill with water, with the exception of a few dry places, and the slaves had generally to work with their feet in the water. I left Richmond with a portion of the slaves, and among them Jacob, about half past four, P. M., on the 11th of April, 1863, and arrived at Emory and Henry College on the 12th of April, 1863, about half after six, P. M., travelling by the Danville, Southside and Virginia and Tennessee railroads; Jacob got off the cars at Emory and Henry College. He did not complain to me, but some of the other negroes told me on the way, that Jacob was complaining of being sick.

Given under my hand, this 8th day of December, 1863.

NOBLE J. MCGINNIS, *J. P.*

RICHMOND, *March 3, 1863.*

At the request of Robert F. Clark, we have examined Jacob, and consider him worth twenty-seven hundred dollars; and Edward Merrell twenty-five hundred and fifty dollars.

D. M. DANIEL.

N. M. LEE.

RICHMOND, *March 3, 1863.*

Received of Mary Clark, the following slaves, viz: Jacob, for work on fortifications at and near this City.

By order of Lt. Col. W. H. STEVENS,
Chief Engineer, D. N. F.
 J. LAMB,
Government Agent.

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